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DITCHING WITH DYNAMITE.

Asst. Sanitary Engineer H. N. Old reports to malarial field headquarters of the Public Health Service a demonstration of cheap and rapid ditching with dynamite, whereby a 20-acre mosquito-breeding swamp was converted into valuable pasture land, near Millen, Ga., on February 17, 1921, by the Central of Georgia Railway and a representative of a manufacturer of explosives.

The mucky soil along the proposed line of ditch was almost completely under water. Stumps of green sweet gum, black gum, and pine, up to 2½ feet in diameter, stood about 6 to 8 feet apart.

Owing to the presence of large roots the entire 1,500 feet of ditch was not blown at one time, but in ten sections, with a resulting economy in the size of charge. One stick of 50 per cent nitroglycerine dynamite was used in each hole. The holes were 24 inches deep, and in a straight line, with a spacing of 10 to 16 inches, averaging 12. At times extra holes were placed to blow stumps clear of the ditch banks. A No. 3 blasting machine was used as detonator, and No. 6 electric blasting caps as primers. The immersion of some of the dynamite in water for as long as four hours between loading and firing was not apparently detrimental to the dynamite.

Within 30 minutes after the last shot there was a freely running stream in the bed. The resulting ditch averaged 7½ feet at the top, 2½ at the bottom, and 3½ deep. Approximately 970 cubic yards of material were removed, or 0.65 cubic yard per linear foot. No hand trimming of the sides was found necessary, as is often the case.

The total cost, including 1,000 pounds of dynamite at 25.5 cents, 44 man-hours labor at 20 cents, and \$6.20 for incidentals, amounted to \$270. The unit cost was 27.8 cents per cubic yard, or 18 cents per linear foot. It is estimated that the blowing of stumps cost 25 per cent of the total. Under similar conditions, hand ditching would be extremely difficult, and a ditch of the same size would probably cost 40 to 50 cents per linear foot.

The landowners intend to convert this formerly waste area into pasture land.

NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK.

Seventh Annual Clean-Up Campaign to be Observed April 3-9, 1921.

On March 2, 1921, Dr. R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, addressed a letter to Surg. Gen. Cumming,

asking for "the cooperation of the United States Public Health Service in the observance of our coming National Negro Health Week" and stating that "it will greatly assist this effort if you can send a letter to the various Public Health Service officers and other agencies under your supervision, calling attention to the Health Week and asking that they cooperate with the colored people in this effort for health improvement."

At a recent conference of persons interested in hygiene and sanitation, in which Dr. Roscoe C. Brown represented the Public Health Service, it was suggested that cooperation be as follows:

1. In promoting the National Negro Health Week;
2. In carrying out a year-round program on health improvement.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

In accordance with the resolutions adopted at the recent Annual Tuskegee Negro Conference and in cooperation with the National Negro Business League and other influential organizations, an invitation is extended to the following organizations and agencies to unite, from April 3 to 9, in the observance of the Seventh Annual National Negro Health Week: Daily and weekly newspapers, health journals, the United States Public Health Service, the National Medical Association, State medical associations, the American Red Cross, the National Association of Graduate Nurses, the American Social Hygiene Association, the National Child Welfare Association, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Circle for Negro Relief, the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, the Associated Negro Press, the National Negro Press Association, bishops and other officers of religious denominations, annual church conferences and associations, secret societies, insurance companies, farmers' conferences, farmers' improvement societies, churches, schools, and other local organizations.

In recent years, especially since the establishment of National Negro Health Week, the death rate among Negroes has been decreasing. In the past eight years, through health education and public health nursing, the death rate among the 1,500,000 Negro policy holders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. was reduced 9 per cent. This shows the importance of having widespread information about health improvement.

At a recent meeting of representatives of a number of national health organizations, held at Tuskegee Institute, the following program for health week was approved.

PROGRAM.

Sunday, April 3: Sermon and Lecture Day. Health sermons and lectures by ministers, physicians, and other persons. Better sanitation and the reduction of infant mortality should be emphasized.

Monday, April 4: Hygiene Day, Personal and Social. Talks by ministers, physicians, and other qualified persons. There should be discussions by qualified persons on the control of venereal diseases and the promotion of social hygiene.

Tuesday, April 5: Children's Health Day. Health programs, stories of modern health crusades, parades, etc. Some part of the exercises of this day should be devoted to the commemoration of the birthday of the late Booker T. Washington, the founder of the National Negro Health Week. It is suggested that on or before this day, school buildings and premises be put in sanitary condition and, if programs are rendered in school buildings, patrons be invited to be present.

Wednesday, April 6: "Swat-the-Fly" Day. Destroy breeding places of flies and mosquitoes; talks on danger of spreading diseases by rats and insect pests.

Thursday, April 7: Tuberculosis Day. Talks by physicians and other qualified persons on the prevention of tuberculosis.

Friday, April 8: Church Sanitation Day. Clean church thoroughly inside and out. Clean the yard of all rubbish, etc.; put toilets in sanitary condition.

Saturday, April 9: General Clean-Up Day.

It is suggested that a committee be organized in each community to supervise the carrying out of the above program.

Tuskegee Institute will appreciate suggestions for making the campaign a success, and will be glad to furnish or cooperate in helping any individual, or group, to receive the necessary health literature. All communications should be addressed to Dr. R. R. Moton, principal, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

COURT PASSES ON REGULATION REQUIRING MORBIDITY REPORTS.¹

The Supreme Court of Mississippi has decided that a regulation of the State board of health, requiring physicians to report on the first of each month all cases of notifiable communicable diseases treated by them during the previous month, is not unreasonable.

A physician was convicted in the lower court of violating the regulation outlined above. The State board of health had statutory authority to make reasonable rules and regulations, and the statutes provided a penalty for their violation. On appeal the physician

¹ Smythe v. State, 86 South., 870.